

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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IO-13 /076 W

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5654

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0394

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, SF, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED MEETING WITH SECRETARY ON US-SA EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

REF: JOHANNESBURG 393

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "THE CITIZEN" CARRIES THE FOLLOWING FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "VANCE LEADS SA JOB PROB," IN ITS FEBRUARY 23 EDITION (SIMILAR STORIES APPEARING IN OTHER JOURNALS):

BEGIN TEXT.

US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE MEETS BLACK AMERICAN CHURCHMEN IN WASHINGTON TODAY TO DISCUSS LABOUR CONDITIONS FOR NON WHITES EMPLOYED BY AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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THIS IS A PRELIMINARY TO THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING NEXT MONTH BETWEEN SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN AND THE 300 MAJOR US COMPANIES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN INTERESTS.

THE MAN BEHIND TODAY'S MEETING IS THE REV LEON SULLIVAN OF THE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA.

MR SULLIVAN HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN TRYING TO GET THE SUPPORT OF AMERICAN FIRMS SUCH AS GENERAL MOTORS, ITT, MOTOROLA AND GENERAL FOODS FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT TO APPLY TO US EMPLOYERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE SIX POINTS IN THE PROPOSED CODE ARE:

NON-SEGREGATION OF THE RACES IN ALL EATING, TOILET AND WORK FACILITIES.

EQUAL PAY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES DOING EQUAL OR COMPARABLE WORK. INITIATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO PREPARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF BLACK AND OTHER NON-WHITE EMPLOYEES FOR SUPERVISORY, ADMINISTRATION, CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL JOBS.

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF BLACK AND OTHER NON-WHITES IN MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY POSITIONS.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EMPLOYEES' LIVES OUTSIDE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT IN SUCH AREAS AS HOUSING, TRANSPORT, SCHOOLING, RECREATION AND OTHER FACILITIES.

THE FACT THAT MR VANCE HAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN LABOUR REQUIREMENTS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IS BELIEVED TO BE UNPRECEDENTED IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

IF AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING HERE AGREE TO SUCH PRESSURE, SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE SUCH EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES APPLY.
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AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE BELIEVED TO BE BITTERLY OPPOSED TO THE GROWING POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THEIR OVERSEAS OPERATIONS POINTING OUT THAT, IF THEY ACCEPT POLITICAL DICTATES ON THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, THEN AMERICAN EMPLOYERS IN NIGERIA, HONG KONG, THE PHILIPPINES, THE BAHAMAS AND ELSEWHERE IMMEDIATELY BECOME VULNERABLE TO POLITICAL PRESSURES THERE TOO. JOHNSON

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